

the State tree of Kentucky, poplar is an abundant resource within Appalachia, which makes their location in rural Clay City a prime spot for their operation. Often referred to as “the painter’s wood,” poplar is known for its clear grain, smooth milling, and paint-taking qualities. The versatile and fine nature of the wood allows Powell Valley Millwork to supply consumers with a wide variety of interior-trim products, such as stretcher bars, door and window jambs, stair parts, cabinetry components, primed finger-joint interior trim, and more. In creating all these products, the Powell Valley millworkers make sure nothing goes to waste. Poplar can be safely used as animal bedding which means the mill’s offcuts, those that are not already being used to fuel the company’s wood drying kilns, are turned into shavings. These shavings are then bagged and shipped out by the truck load to be sold in a wide variety of retail outlets.

This Powell County mill maintains their technology at a topnotch standard. In 2019 the owners invested in a new addition to the team: a sophisticated scanning rough mill line from Eagle Machinery & Supply, Inc. The new rough mill line is able to process 65,000 board feet of lumber in a single 8-hour shift with only six people required to operate it. The joint project between Powell and Eagle, both family companies, demonstrates that U.S. machinery manufacturers can successfully compete with Europeans in providing world-class technology to the North American wood processing industry.

The Thornberrys keep their eye on efficiency and progress, opening up ownership of the company to experts outside the family, including Brian Lambert, Powell Valley Mill’s General manager, and Dale Budke, the mill’s operations manager. As fellow owners of the company, these gentlemen provide the expertise necessary for navigating the growing Kentucky lumber industry. In 2019 Powell Valley Millwork acquired the Metrie Poplar manufacturing facility in nearby Jeffersonville, KY. With a new 125,000-square-foot location only 12 miles from their original facility, the two locations utilize their natural synergies to support the needs of a diverse customer base across North America in full truck and railroad quantities.

Powell Valley Millwork is a testament to the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Kentuckians. Drawing from our beautiful natural resources and employing over 200 local men and women, this business illustrates some of the best qualities Kentucky has to offer—fine craftsmanship and dedicated hard work. Powell Valley Millwork is a decades-old dream the Thornberrys had when they left the mining industry, a dream that has grown beyond what they had imagined. Small businesses like Powell Valley are the core of small towns across Kentucky, and like the poplars they use in their mill, their

roots grow deep to help our communities flourish. Congratulations to the Thornberrys and the entire Powell Valley team. I wish them the best of luck and look forward to watching their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MARYLAND SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

● Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, devotion, commitment, resilience—these are just a few of the words that describe the professionals who comprise Maryland’s 24 local boards of education.

The dedicated public servants who lead the school systems in Maryland counties and Baltimore City act with deep commitment to their communities and their time-intensive school board duties. Maryland school board members make critical budget and planning decisions, adopt policies to create supportive learning environments for all students, engage with parents, students, school staff, and other community stakeholders, work closely with superintendents, respond to crises, and undergo ongoing training to carry out effective governance, continue to grow as leaders, and stay up-to-date on the latest best practices.

As devoted professionals who serve students, school systems, and their communities at large, Maryland school board members face an array of daunting challenges every day, challenges made significantly more difficult and complex during the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet Maryland’s 24 school boards have consistently risen to these challenges, working to ensure excellence in public education throughout the State.

School board members come from all backgrounds and professions. They may not agree on every issue, but they unite and volunteer to serve under the strong conviction that Maryland students come first.

Because of the extraordinary, continuing commitment of those who serve on our school boards to helping Maryland students grow, thrive, and excel each day—and with my ongoing commitment to Maryland public education in mind—I am proud to recognize January as Maryland School Board Recognition Month.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 1:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4673. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of eligible veterans in patient enrollment system of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 1:53 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 452. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O’Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2959. An act to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2023 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2022 application.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4673. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the automatic enrollment of eligible veterans in patient enrollment system of Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, January 20, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 452. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O’Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 2959. An act to provide that, due to the disruptions caused by COVID-19, applications for impact aid funding for fiscal year 2023 may use certain data submitted in the fiscal year 2022 application.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2305. A bill to enhance cybersecurity education (Rept. No. 117-59).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Alison J. Nathan, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Victoria Marie Calvert, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

John H. Chun, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Sarah Elisabeth Geraghty, of Georgia, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Georgia.

Georgette Castner, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

Julie Rebecca Rubin, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Cristina D. Silva, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

Anne Rachel Traum, of Nevada, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nevada.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 3528. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to limit the authority of corporations to establish and operate separate segregated funds utilized for political purposes, including the establishment or operation of a political committee, to nonprofit corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3529. A bill to amend the Investor Protection and Securities Reform Act of 2010 to provide grants to States for enhanced protection of senior investors and senior policyholders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 3530. A bill to encourage the extraction and processing of rare earth metals in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3531. A bill to require the Federal Government to produce a national climate adaptation and resilience strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 3532. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to Ansarallah and its officials, agents, or affiliates for acts of international terrorism; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3533. A bill to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to improve the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. INHOFE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. Res. 494. A resolution memorializing the unborn by lowering the United States flag to half-staff on the 22nd day of January each year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 495. A resolution urging the International Olympic Committee to relocate the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games in response to the refusal of the People's Republic of China to end its egregious human rights abuses, including genocide, forced labor, and crimes against humanity; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 496. A resolution congratulating the University of Georgia Bulldogs football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football Playoff National Championship; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HOEVEN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. Res. 497. A resolution congratulating the North Dakota State University Bison football team for winning the 2022 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Football Championship Subdivision title; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. REED, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 498. A resolution recognizing January 2022 as "National Mentoring Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. WARREN, Mr. ROUNDS, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Con. Res. 28. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that September 30 should be observed as a national day of remembrance for the Native American children who died while attending a United States Indian boarding school and recognizing, honoring, and supporting the survivors of Indian boarding schools, their families, and their communities; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 766

At the request of Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1106, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 2779

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2779, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment of a Task Force on Maternal Mental Health, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3236, a bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to reform the contribution system of the Universal Service Fund, and for other purposes.

S. 3486

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3486, a bill to provide, manufacture, and distribute high quality N-95 respirator masks for every individual in the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic using the Defense Production Act and other means.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3514

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3514, a bill to repeal COVID-19 vaccination requirements imposed by the District of Columbia.

S. 3522

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 3522, a bill to provide enhanced authority for the President to enter into agreements with the Government of Ukraine to lend or lease defense articles to that Government to protect civilian populations in Ukraine from Russian military invasion, and for other purposes.